

Patent  
Atty. Dkt. LYNN/0120

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims according to the following replacement claim set:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a sterilizing solution, comprising:
  - (a) storing dry solid material comprising one or more dipercarboxylic acid; and
  - (b) dissolving the dry solid material into water as needed to prepare an aqueous sterilizing solution having a dipercarboxylic acid concentration between about 0.1 weight percent and saturation.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid material further comprises inorganic salts.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the inorganic salts are provided in a stabilizing amount.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the solid material is substantially free from organic compounds other than the one or more dipercarboxylic acid.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acid is soluble in water in the absence of a solubilizer.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sterilizing solution is substantially free of hydrogen peroxide.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acid is selected from diperglutaric acid, diperadipic acid, diperpimelic acid, dipersuberic acid, and diperazelaic acid, and combinations thereof.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of solid material dissolved into water is sufficient to be sporicidal.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of solid material dissolved into water is

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sufficient to be sterilizing.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the water is at ambient temperature.

11-16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the dry solid material further comprises one or more organic solubilizers selected from long chain aliphatic fatty acids, long chain aliphatic quaternary ammonium salts, and combinations thereof.

18-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
contacting a surgical instrument with the sterilizing solution, wherein the surgical instrument becomes sterilized.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
contacting a device with the sterilizing solution, wherein the device becomes sterilized.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of dissolving further comprises:  
stirring the sterilizing solution, wherein the stirring facilitates the dissolving of the dry solid material.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
contacting a lumen of an endoscope with the sterilizing solution, wherein the lumen becomes sterilized.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a sterilizing solution, comprising:  
(a) storing dry solid material comprising one or more dipercarboxylic acid; and  
(b) dissolving the dry solid material into water as needed to prepare an aqueous sterilizing solution having a dipercarboxylic acid concentration between about 0.1 weight percent and saturation, in the absence of a peroxide.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the solid material further comprises inorganic salts.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[30]] 31, wherein the inorganic salts are provided in a stabilizing amount.
33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the solid material is substantially free from organic compounds other than the one or more dipercarboxylic acid.
34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acid is soluble in water in the absence of a solubilizer.
35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acid is selected from diperglutaric acid, diperadipic acid, diperpimelic acid, dipersuberic acid, and diperazelaic acid, and combinations thereof.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the amount of solid material dissolved into water is sufficient to be sporicidal.
37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the amount of solid material dissolved into water is sufficient to be sterilizing.
38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the water is at ambient temperature.
39. (Canceled).
40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 30, wherein the dry solid material further comprises one or more organic solubilizers selected from long chain aliphatic fatty acids, long chain aliphatic quaternary ammonium salts, and combinations thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a sterilizing solution, comprising:
- (a) storing dry solid material comprising sterilizing agents consisting essentially of one or more dipercarboxylic acids; and
  - (b) dissolving the dry solid material into water as needed to prepare an aqueous sterilizing solution having a dipercarboxylic acid concentration between about 0.1 weight percent and saturation.
42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the solid material further comprises inorganic salts.
43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 42, wherein the inorganic salts are provided in a stabilizing amount.
44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the solid material is substantially free from organic compounds other than the one or more dipercarboxylic acid.
45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acid is soluble in water in the absence of a solubilizer.
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acid is selected from diperglutaric acid, diperadipic acid, diperpimelic acid, dipersuberic acid, and diperazelaic acid, and combinations thereof.
47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the amount of solid material dissolved into water is sufficient to be sporicidal.
48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the amount of solid material dissolved into water is sufficient to be sterilizing.
49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the water is at ambient temperature.

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50. (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 41, wherein the dry solid material further comprises one or more organic solubilizers selected from long chain aliphatic fatty acids, long chain aliphatic quaternary ammonium salts, and combinations thereof.